

## Dangerous occurrence involving a mobile crane

Safety Flash Published on 1 July 2001 Generated on 17 January 2025 IMCA SF 07/01

A member has notified us of a serious incident involving a mobile crane onboard one of its vessels.

### What happened?

The crane was being utilised to install a spool piece subsea. The crane was severely overloaded and its track lifted off the vessel deck as it started to topple over. The load was released and the crane fell back to deck, suffering extensive damage in the process. The overload protection mechanism on the crane had been deactivated.

### The following actions were taken:

The company involved has notified all of its vessels and work sites, which were requested to inspect their cranes and lifting equipment to ensure that all overload protection mechanisms are installed, operational and activated.

It has stressed that no unauthorised modifications of lifting equipment are permitted.

The company has also reiterated its policy for lifting operations, which includes ensuring:

- any safety devices installed on lifting equipment are operational and activated.
- the load does not exceed the dynamic or static capacity of the lifting equipment, in accordance with the conditions on the approved capacity chart for the lifting equipment.
- the actual load has been verified, including a test, if necessary.

*IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.*

*The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.*

*All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.*

*IMCA makes every effort to ensure both the accuracy and reliability of the information shared, but is not be liable for any guidance and/or recommendation and/or statement herein contained.*

*The information contained in this document does not fulfil or replace any individual's or Member's legal, regulatory or other duties or obligations in respect of their*

operations. Individuals and Members remain solely responsible for the safe, lawful and proper conduct of their operations.

Share your safety incidents with [IMCA online](#). Sign-up to receive Safety Flashes [straight to your email](#).